

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO.

89-67

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: RDP/RCA PROGRAM CHANGES

The purpose of this letter is to transmit implementation instructions to the County Welfare Departments (CWDs) regarding the regulation changes to the Refugee Demonstration Project/Refugee Cash Assistance (RDP/RCA) programs effective July 1, 1989. These changes are a result of the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program regulations published in the Federal Register (Volume 54, No. 22) on February 3, 1989.

In order to comply with these requirements, the State Department of Social Services will be issuing revised RDP/RCA regulations which are scheduled to become effective in the near future. However, for purposes of policy implementation, the effective date for the following changes is July 1, 1989.

1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- As an applicant for RDP-Unemployed Parent or RCA, a refugee must not, without good cause, within 30 consecutive calendar days immediately prior to the application for assistance, have voluntarily quit employment or have refused to accept an offer of employment or employment-directed education/training, or participate in a CWD-approved or referred employment-directed education/training program. To determine if the applicant has quit or refused employment the CWD must contact the voluntary agency (VOLAG) which resettled the refugee applicant. (If VOLAG information is unavailable, the CWD must accept the applicant's self-declaration to determine if the individual has quit or refused employment within 30 consecutive days immediately prior to the application for aid.) (This new requirement supersedes Section 69-208.5).
- As a condition of eligibility, every RDP/RCA recipient may not, without good cause, voluntarily quit employment. (This instruction will be added to Section 69-208.11).
- As a condition of continued receipt of RDP/RCA, a nonexempt recipient who is employed 30 hours a week or less must accept part-time employability services (i.e., on the job training, vocational training, vocational English-as-a-Second Language, English-as-a-Second language, Employment Services), provided that such services do not interfere with the recipient's job. (This instruction will be added to Section 69-208.1.)

- Additionally, Section 69-208 will be revised to specify that an RDP/RCA recipient must accept an offer of employment unless:

- 1) he/she is exempt; or
- 2) good cause can be established; or
- 3) the refugee is participating in a program of on-the-job training which is being carried out as part of the employability plan; or
- 4) the refugee is enrolled full-time in a professional recertification program which meets the full-time student requirements as described above.

2. EXEMPTIONS

An individual must be considered employable and required to participate/cooperate with employment and employment-directed training requirements unless:

- 1) The refugee is working more than 30 hours a week in unsubsidized employment which is expected to last a minimum of 30 days. This exemption continues to apply if there is a temporary break in full-time employment which is expected to last no longer than 10 workdays. (This new requirement supersedes Section 69-208.4[j].)
- 2) The refugee is pregnant and it has been medically verified that the child is expected to be born in the month in which registration would otherwise be required or within the next three months. (This new requirement is to be added to the current list of exemptions in Section 69-208.4)

3. GOOD CAUSE CRITERIA

Sections 69-209.4(e) and 69-209.4(j) regarding failure to meet or comply with registration, employment, and employment directed education training requirements are being deleted from current State regulations.

4. CONCILIATION

Conciliation shall begin as soon as possible, but no later than 10 days following the date that the CWD is made aware of an RDP/RCA recipient's failure to cooperate/participate, or within 30 days of the date that the recipient failed to cooperate/participate, whichever comes first. (This new requirement will be added to Section 69-209.5.)

5. FULL-TIME COLLEGE

If an RDP/RCA recipient is a professional in need of professional refresher training and other services in order to qualify to practice his/her profession in the United States, the training may consist of full-time attendance in a college or professional training program, provided that such training:

- 1) is approved as part of the individual's employability plan as developed by the CWD or its designee;
- 2) does not exceed one year's duration (including any time enrolled in such program in the United States prior to the refugee's application for assistance. If there is no documentation available the CWD must accept client declaration as an acceptable method for determining if the refugee has received higher education in the United States prior to application for aid); and
- 3) is specifically intended to assist the professional in becoming relicensed in his/her profession; and, if completed, can realistically be expected to result in such relicensing.

(This new requirement is to be added to Section 69-206.5 of the current State regulations.)

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT

A waiver request has been approved by Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) for our Department to delay the implementation of the new job search activity requirement to January 1, 1990. This requirement will apply to RCA recipients only.

Effective January 1, 1990, CWDs will be required to track RCA recipients and document the cash assistance case file in order to ensure that eight consecutive weeks of job search begins no later than six months after the refugee has entered the United States, or at the time the refugee is determined eligible for cash assistance if the refugee has completed at least six months in the United States at the time of such determination. CWDs must ensure that requirements for participation in job search are met as a condition of eligibility for cash assistance.

4

A committee of State and County staff has been created to develop a job search form which may be used by CWDs to track RCA clients who are in the job search component. If you have any questions regarding the committee, please contact Ms. Rose Bradley of the Refugee Employment Program Bureau at (916) 323-3852. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your County Refugee Program Operations Analyst at (916) 323-2131.

Sincerely,

O/S

ROBERT A. HOREL
Deputy Director
Welfare Program Division

cc: Dr. Sharon Fujii
CWDA

bcc: Robert A. Horel
W. Barnes
F. Rondas
F. Schack
Merlyn White
B. Smith
BS/cm/BETTSrpps19